



# Bell Tower

The Alumni Magazine of the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith

Sept. 20, 1958.

Dear Miss Evans,

Congratulations on your heroic stand.

... of in time. We who believe in Christ's ...

demons.

P.S. I hope "Angie" has while I the 1st She is school is

Dear "Angie",

As a southern school teacher (who taught too long for my physical welfare) I want to feel near enough to you as a high school student to call you sister. I am sure you would have the same school.

From the dept- lations to you fore your school your God in of circumstan population. Give me hope a better pla example bef and Justice of the cond our profess

I wish the realize th attention of foreign We condemn ies and w their oat of the Ua fiance of foreign that the guilty

May God righteo

Just to add I know Misson Texas tradition



Dear Angie,

We Americans here in Europe (and those in Asia even more) are usually handicapped by people here to defend or even explain so many of the things going on in our states these days. Every little incident of hatred and violence is played up in all the papers until it is almost impossible for strangers to understand someone like you on the credit side of the coin with pride is still there.

from Wisconsin, here I am studying there in Van Buren, work where it is know how difficult most of the people yours teaching to star, and I sin- t startle others into you have some in the long run you ed a thousand in you have rightly first commandment d with all .....



daughter  
H Smith  
star of  
there.  
ical of a  
Largo.

To Another:

Miss Jessie Angelina Evans  
High School Student Body President

# She stood up

In 1958, Angie Evans spoke out against segregation—and the world responded





COREY KRASKO

**Billy Higgins, associate professor of history, Stephen Husarik, professor of humanities and music, and Henry Rinne, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, interviewed numerous alumni to tell the university's story in the *University of Arkansas – Fort Smith: The First 85 Years*. Higgins, Husarik and Rinne autographed copies of the book in which they wrote, "These interviews describe the life of the university and the people whose bravery, determination, foresight, folly, and humility made the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith the remarkable institution it is today."**





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# Here We Grow Again

*UAFS prepares to build and expand*

**I**n its 85-year history, the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith has undergone many changes – from meeting under the high school bleachers to the move to the county poor farm. Even though we just completed the addition to the Boreham Library that more than doubled its space, we’re preparing to grow again.

During the fall, we unveiled our master plan for the next 20 years, a road map for our future with buildings we’ll need to add and space we’ll need to grow as our student numbers increase. We also made the first step in that plan thanks to the generosity of a \$15.5 million grant from the Windgate Foundation that is allowing us to build a visual arts center. We’ll break ground on that later this spring, and students from five educational areas on campus will enter the doors of a state-of-the-art instruction space in 2015. With gallery space and a movie theater, the space will be a dynamic arts center for the university and for the River Valley. It’s truly an exciting time to be a Lion, now and in the future.

During the next 20 years, in these pages and elsewhere, you’ll discover how we’re growing as we build more residence halls, replace classroom space and create an entry-way to the university from Grand Avenue. One day the students attending UAFS now will return and be amazed at the differences, much like the students who attended Fort Smith Junior College or Westark Community College find the campus now. Not a single building remains from the FSJC days, and while we don’t intend to replace all of the current buildings, the changes to campus will be significant. (To watch the video of the changes, visit <http://uafs.edu/masterplan/uafs-master-plan>.)



COREY KRASKO

Through all of the changes in the university’s history, it has remained committed to positively change lives and to enrich the River Valley and surrounding areas through education and training. Now, this plan will help guide us for the next 20 years.

We invite you with this issue to sit down, spend some time with fellow Lions and see how we’re roaring.

*With Lion Pride,*

**PAUL B. BERAN, PH.D.**  
**CHANCELLOR**

## Bell Tower

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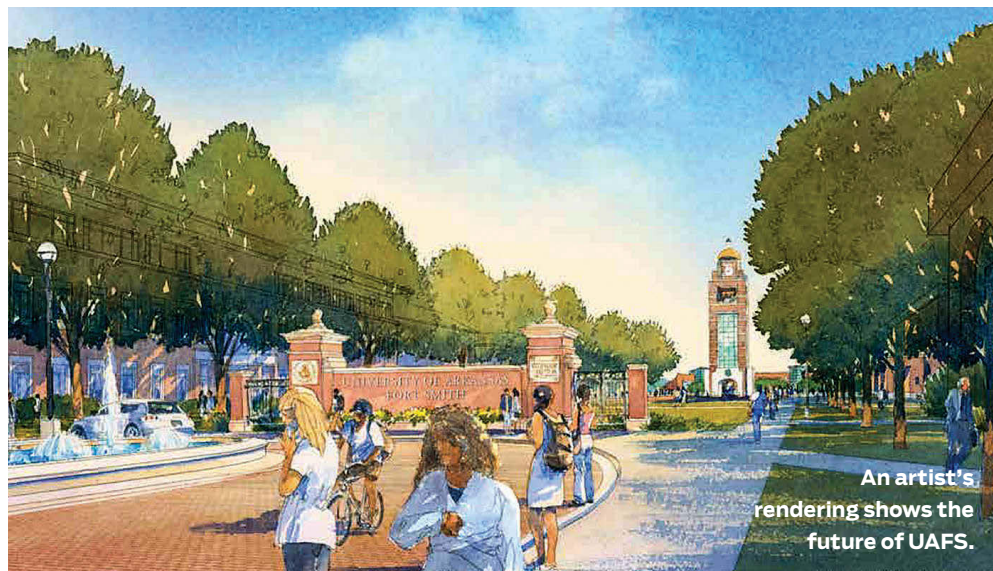
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## points of pride

**Awarded a** gold medal for her postsecondary nurse assisting skills, Chyanne Hawkins, a junior nursing major from Greenwood, Ark, took home the top medal in the 2013 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Mo. Approximately 15,000 people participated in the event, which allows students to showcase their technical skills on a national stage.

**Commended with** top marks in the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadets Leonardo Padilla, a graphic design major, and Samuel Mosley, a criminal justice major, received final ratings of "excellent" based on their performances.

**Lauded as** one of 23 notable alumni from Stephen F. Austin State University, UAFS Chancellor Paul B. Beran was honored with a banner hanging along the university's historic Vista Drive. The recognition honors Beran's service as a higher education administrator in Oklahoma, Massachusetts and Missouri, as well as his time as a faculty member at several Texas institutions.

**Decorated with** six awards from the Arkansas State Festival of the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, the Theatre@UAFS received high marks for its play "Lend Me a Tenor." Awards included: Best load in/load out; Excellence in Honor Crewing for Lee Hartsock of Fort Smith and Kendra Carter of Fort Smith; and Irene Ryan nominations for Acting for Zeke Sidwell of Charleston, Ark, Cody Banning of Fort Smith, and Brett Alexander of Rogers. The university's six awards tied two other schools for the most awards earned at the festival by an institution.

**Selected for** two national distinctions with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Keith Fudge, faculty athletics representative, served as one of 16 Fellows selected to represent NCAA Division II Athletics and one of three Division II faculty athletic representatives selected to serve nationally on the NCAA Steering Committee.

**Presented with** the Lifetime Membership Award, the Arkansas Association of College

(continued on page 5)

## Following the Plan

UAFS NOW HAS A ROAD MAP for its physical future as the university unveiled an updated master plan following a yearlong process.

With a planned growth of more than 20 percent during the next 20 years, the student population will climb from the more than 7,000 now attending to 9,000 students, including graduate students, university officials knew they needed to plan for the future.

UAFS Chancellor Paul B. Beran said the plan addresses new buildings and the direction of campus growth, as well as design standards to help preserve the campus character in the years ahead.

"In 20 years, you'll see more buildings, more green space, more students," Beran said. "Such change attracts and retains a diverse set of students, faculty and staff as well as creates a welcoming place of pride for Fort Smith."

In fact, the first stage of the master plan began to take shape this spring as the university broke ground for the new visual arts center at the intersection of Waldron and Kinkead.

"In the coming decades, get ready for a university further physically transformed with new and renovated buildings as we give our students a quality education to prepare them for the workforce with classroom and real-world experiences," Beran said.

**"Wisdom is like scar tissue. It accumulates by accident when you're trying to do something else."**

—Mark Horn, UAFS vice chancellor for university relations, during the December 2013 graduation address.



# Web Construction

*Student's design selected by Gap and sold in stores*

DANIELLE KLING FLIPPED through the mail her 7-year-old daughter had left on the table, bill, bill, bill. Then she saw an envelope with Skinny Corp on the return address and through the envelope's plastic window she could see the words "Royalty Check." That's when the screaming began.

In the fall of 2012, a professor of graphic design assigned his students to develop a design to enter in a Threadless website challenge.

Kling, then a sophomore graphic design major from Muldrow, Okla., sat at home drawing thumbnail sketch after thumbnail sketch trying to narrow it to one idea. Then she thought about the writing spider that had built a web on her carport and wondered how she could use the spider that she and her daughter had named Charlotte.

"I thought, if we were going to build a web we'd need blueprints," she said.



She developed a design of a spider building a web with blueprint notations giving the dimensions for the spiral, hub, radial spokes and bridge for the web.

"It even says spider with an arrow pointing to a spider, just in case you didn't know," she said with a laugh.

While her design didn't win the Threadless competition, in February of 2013 she received an email with a contract wanting to use her design for T-shirts to be sold in Gap stores. The accompanying letter informed her that if her design made it to the finals, it would be sold in stores.

Then she waited and waited. By the fall, she decided that her design didn't make the finals. Then the check arrived.

For the non-traditional student who first heard of the graphic design program when it piqued her interest in a list of degrees, the experience confirmed the rightness of her studies.

"As a designer that's all you want is to have people in massive amounts see your work," she said. "It's made me think that I'm in the right place."

# Visually Forward

*University begins construction on visual arts building*

IN 2015, VISUAL ARTS at UAFS will center in a new home after being scattered across the campus. Construction on the \$15 million project began this spring at the corner of Waldron Road and Kinhead Avenue.

When completed, the 58,000-square-foot space will house gallery spaces, 150-seat film theater, the letterpress and printmaking operations, graphic design labs and more.

"This new building will become a center for the arts with three major galleries to showcase our student work as well as art



An artist rendering shows the future Visual Arts Center.

shows of regional and national importance," said Henry Rinne, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The three-story building will be the edu-

cational home to about 120 graphic design majors and 50 studio art majors. Hundreds of other students will use the space for their general education courses in the arts.

"During meetings to provide input for a new campus master plan, the need for this facility was clearly shown," said Chancellor Paul Beran. "It's time to move forward and provide new, quality space to house these visual arts programs, but we also see this facility as one that will further enhance the university's role in the arts in this region."

A \$15.5 million grant to construct and equip the space from the Windgate Charitable Foundation of Siloam Springs has helped UAFS to take that step forward. Additionally, the foundation put forward \$2.5 million as a challenge grant. The UAFS Foundation has taken on that challenge and is working to raise the funds for a building endowment.

"In the end, it's about the students," Rinne said.





Conaly Bedell accepts his Diligence to Victory Award during Homecoming 2013.

KIRSTEN CUTSINGER

(continued from page 3)

and University Business Officers recognized Mark Horn, vice chancellor for university relations "in appreciation for dedicated service and outstanding leadership in Arkansas higher education 1992-2013." Horn plans to retire June 30.

**Named to** the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, UAFS Assistant Professor of History and Drennan-Scott Historic Site Directory Tom Wing will serve a four-year term. The alliance focuses on preservation issues. Wing received an award for excellence in preservation education from the alliance in 2006. In 2012, the organization recognized the Drennan-Scott project for excellence in historic preservation.

**Awarded with** top prizes, three University of Arkansas - Fort Smith students took home their prizes from the South Central Broadcasting Society's fall 2013 competition held at the Texas Association of Broadcasters in Austin. Ruben Silva of Van Buren, Ark, won first place in the PSA video category for "Arkansas Human Trafficking," and he teamed up with fellow UAFS students Brad Carney of Rogers, Ark, and James Woodard of Lamar, Ark, to produce the "Ralph Irwin Documentary," which placed second in the long video format category.

**Awarded more** than 30 prizes, UAFS employees and students took home top awards from the American Advertising Federation local chapter's 2014 ADDY Awards. The awards included two Special Judges Awards for the UAFS mobile application and a UAFS zombie T-shirt design. The Marketing and Communications Office earned 12 professional division ADDYs for its work, including the two Special Judges Awards, two gold awards, six silvers and two bronzes. UAFS students won 23 student division ADDYs, including one Special Judges Award, one Best in Show Award, five gold awards, 12 silvers and four bronzes.



## Quiet Leadership

ON A MARCH MORNING IN 1989, Conaly Bedell, '56, picked up the phone and called then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton.

In five minutes, Clinton returned the call and opened the conversation with the words "Conaly, I can't sign it."

"He knew why I was calling," said Bedell, who was chair of the Westark Community College Board of Trustees.

At stake was the University Center

### Alumni Association Council members are:

Karla Jacobs – chair  
Conaly Bedell  
Terrence Carter  
Rebecca Hurst  
Chester Koprovic  
Warren Rapert  
Pamela Tolliver Rice  
Rick Rice  
Randy Wewers

concept, in which four-year institutions would offer junior- and senior-level classes for degrees on the Westark campus.

The measure had passed the Legislature, but Westark President Joel Stubblefield learned Clinton planned to veto it. He turned to Bedell, who had worked on Clinton's gubernatorial campaign, to intercede on behalf of the

college. Bedell obliged with a brief but effective call to Little Rock.

"I asked him for a couple of minutes of his time to listen to our reasons for wanting a University Center, explaining that this was precisely the answer needed for a state short in higher-education money," Bedell recalled. "Bill said he never thought of it that way, and he agreed to sign the legislation."

That leadership and support of the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith in its past and present earned Bedell the Diligence to Victory Award, the highest alumni award,

during Homecoming 2013. The university recognizes alumni who illustrate the "through diligence to victory" motto of Fort Smith Junior College's first graduating class through their service to the community, state or nation and who show outstanding leadership in their business or professional lives.

Bedell received his associate degree from Fort Smith Junior College, where he served as editor of the *Lion's Roar* student newspaper. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Tulsa. After a short stint at the *Tulsa Tribune*, *Life* magazine recruited Bedell. Currently, Bedell works as an international technology and political consultant with Jefferson Waterman International.

Warren Rapert, '81, a member of the Alumni Advisory Council, said the Diligence to Victory Award celebrates Bedell's "quiet leadership." Bedell served for 18 years on the Westark Board of Trustees and is a founding member of the Alumni Advisory Council.

"In my view, what I was able to do, what I took time to do, was my responsibility, as well as my pleasure, to give my efforts to the school that gave so much to me," he said. "Any lasting contributions I did make occurred only because I was a part of a team, part of a community that was dedicated to building this university, to making changes and advances and improvements that led to growth - growth based upon quality."

Nominations for the 2014 Diligence to Victory Award may be made to Rick Goins, director of the UAFS Alumni Association, at [rick.goins@uafs.edu](mailto:rick.goins@uafs.edu).



# Starting It Up

## Students craft winning business plan

INSTEAD OF BEING an observer, a UAFS student opted to plunge in and ended up winning big.

Dennis Wemyss, a graphic design student at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, and Josh Pham, an information systems student, planned to network and assist during Startup Weekend NWA, which seeks to help grow entrepreneurship at a local level.

Instead, the two friends, both of Fort Smith, along with Darrick Buralli, a programmer at Dillard's in Little Rock, decided to enter their own business concept — a website called Exposure that connects photographers with potential clients — into the competition, and won first place.

"It was definitely the biggest weekend of my life," Wemyss said. "I've already received job offers and internships from people I've never heard of."

Pham had conceived of the winning idea last year but had yet to develop it into a business model. That proved convenient, as the competition requires contestants' concepts



**Josh Pham and Dennis Wemyss discuss how they developed their winning website, Exposure, with a plan to unite photographers with clients.**

for businesses to be nothing more than a basic premise that they develop into a working business model during the weekend-long event.

Pham said Exposure fuses the employment website Monster and image hosting website Flickr.

"Exposure lets you connect to a photographer wherever you need a photograph taken," he said. "So let's say you're going to Hawaii for your honeymoon. You're not going to want to pay to fly a photographer out

there. Instead, you can put a request on our website, and photographers in Hawaii will reply to the request and submit portfolios to show you what work they've done. From there, you can decide which photographer you'd like."

Wemyss added that it benefits the client and the photographer.

"It gives the photographer work and a chance to build his or her portfolio," he said. "It works out for both parties."

Pham and Wemyss worked 42 hours developing the business during the weekend before the final presentation on Sunday. And Wemyss, who had no background in public speaking, pitched the idea to judges and won Best Pitch in addition to the team placing first.

"We addressed a solution to a problem, and we were concise with everything, and I think the judges liked that," he said.

The award for first place included three hours of legal consulting, 30 hours of brand consulting from an advertising agency, printed branding materials from the brand agency, four hours of technical consulting, \$300 in field agent credits, and a one year gold subscription to a web design website.

A first-place finish at the local competition also entered them into the Global Startup Battle, where their idea will compete against others from around the world. But the team members aren't as worried about the global competition as they are about getting their business off the ground.

—John Post



## SNAPSHOT

The International Leadership Council acts as the voice of the international student body at UAFS. They organize and promote international events for the university. Front row: Mikako Sakai of Kyoto, Japan; Marina Ishii of Chiba, Japan; Nina Vu of Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam; Rasila Soumana of Niamey Niger. Back Row: International Student and Scholar Advisor Brock Holland, Marcos Pfitzer of Itajai, Brazil; Jack Bui of Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam; Thanh Bui of Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam and Executive Director for International Relations Takeo Suzuki.





THE BLUE LION AT UAFS DOWNTOWN IS the featured site for art exhibits, concerts and more for the UAFS and Fort Smith communities. Located at 101 N. 2nd St., the building was formerly called Second Street Live before UAFS acquired it in 2012 and underwent a renaming in the fall of 2013.

A decision on the new name came after Chancellor Paul B. Beran decided to go with an amalgam of ideas generated in a naming contest. "The Blue Lion at UAFS Downtown has already been the site for numerous concerts, exhibits, meetings and workshops," said Beran, "and it will continue to be a good choice for university- and community-sponsored events."

## Author Speaks About Vietnam

Tim O'Brien, renowned author of *The Things They Carried*, gave the UAFS and Fort Smith communities a feel for the Vietnam War as part of the annual Read This! program. O'Brien, who served in the Vietnam War, found writing the perfect outlet to explore the emotions he experienced overseas.

"I think going back to Vietnam and going back to the things they carried was necessary for me," he said. "I'm not sure if it was entirely psychological, but it was more a feeling that there were so many other stories that were worth telling. And I think that's probably what really pushed me to write this book."

To have the novel selected for a community read was "a real honor" for O'Brien.

"It's kind of a validation of a lifetime's worth of work. To have so many people around the country reading *The Things They Carried* and to have it chosen for a community read like this is unbelievable."

Todd Koch had his dream of playing Wheel of Fortune come true.



## Koch Spins the Wheel

TODD KOCH LEANED over, grasped the handle and gave the wheel a turn. As a "Wheel Watcher," he knew the television game show *Wheel of Fortune* well, but on a July day in Las Vegas, he stood as a contestant on stage before a live studio audience with Pat Sajak hosting and Vanna White turning letters.

Koch, who works in the UAFS admissions office, auditioned for the show in Tulsa in November 2012. Then he received a call back

for a second audition in February 2013. It took two weeks for the letter to arrive telling him that he had secured a place on the show.

"Once I got on stage to film my show, I instantly became nervous," he said. But soon the nerves subsided and he relaxed into the experience of a lifetime.

While it filmed in July, his episode didn't air until Sept. 27, and until then he was sworn to secrecy on his second-place win of more than \$13,000.



# Feeding Her Spirit

*Alumna's art selected for international exhibit*

JUDY HOWARD FOLLOWED her own advice for young artists and succeeded with a painting selected for a juried international online exhibit.

Howard, who attended Westark in 1967-68, had her painting titled "Tracks and Shadows" selected to be in the International Association of Pastel Societies 23rd Juried Exhibition web show.

Having her watercolors and pastels on exhibit is nothing new for Howard, but this is her first international exhibit.

"They had thousands of entries for the

Education and taught for three years at Van Buren (Ark.) Junior High before returning to UAFS to teach drawing and painting classes for 13 years in the continuing education program.

Through the years, Howard advised young artists to keep drawing, painting and creating in any medium that speaks to them, as well as continuing to learn through classes, visiting museums and reading about other artists.

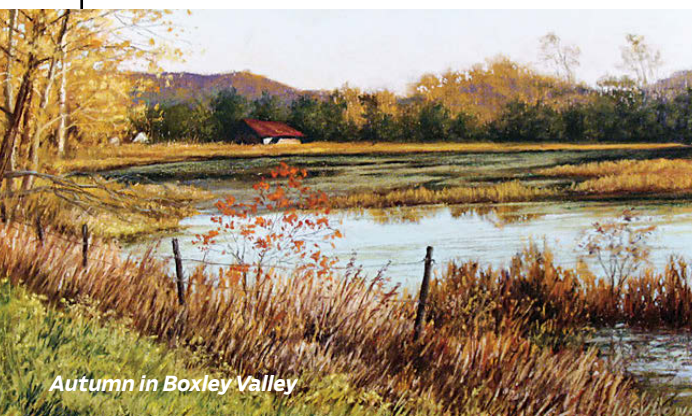
"Never give up or quit making art of



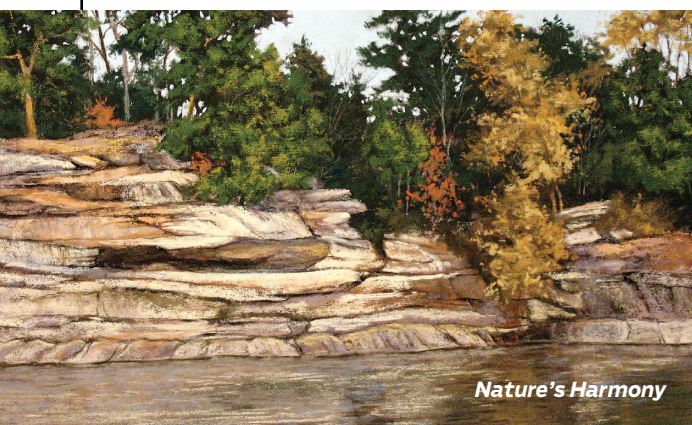
Her art often reflects the area where she lives in Fayetteville or in the Fort Smith region where she grew up. Howard's work includes a watercolor of the UAFS bell tower at the center of campus, a depiction that was printed and framed in addition to being used in countless publications and on stationery and clothing.

Howard said she worked in watercolors for years before taking up pastels about 10 years ago.

"I like working in pastels because the colors are rich and exciting and the textures are inviting," she said. "Watercolor and



Autumn in Boxley Valley



Nature's Harmony



Tracks and Shadows

prestigious show, so I am very honored to have a painting accepted and displayed with so many wonderful paintings by such excellent artists," she said.

Howard graduated from Arkansas Tech in 1971 with a Bachelor of Arts in Art

some kind," she said. "Even if your job has nothing to do with art, find time to create something — paintings, pottery, music, stories, whatever interests you. Art will feed your spirit and your soul all your life, if you let it."

pastels are opposites in many ways — transparent versus opaque, wet paint versus dry pigment — and I love them both." —Sondra LaMar



# 5Q

## 'A GOOD VOICE' Madeline Martinez-Santiago



COREY KRASNO

The pink and Hello Kitty-accented office of Madeline Martinez-Santiago showcases the Spanish instructor's twin passions of teaching and volunteering. Spanish textbooks line a bookcase, and certificates for participation in the Citizens Fire Academy and the Citizens Police Academy hang next to

her 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award from the Fort Smith Police Department. Since 2000, Martinez-Santiago has worked with the police department, first teaching officers basic Spanish and now volunteering as a translator.

### 1 Why is it important to have translators available?

I believe we all deserve to be protected. Just because there's a language barrier doesn't mean you're not going to be helped. Just because you don't speak English doesn't mean you're going to get away with what you did. We're going to find a way to communicate with you and investigate the case.

### 2 What does translating for the Fort Smith Police Department entail?

Any case that comes in that deals with Hispanics and they need an interpreter, I work with them. If there's a case, the detective calls me and I pretty much become his voice. I work with interviewing the suspect or the victim. Unfortunately, the cases I have worked with a lot are with the juvenile detective unit and they're physical abuse or sexual abuse of children. The children sometimes speak English, but when it comes to incidents like that they sometimes feel better speaking in Spanish. The police department several years ago sent me to training for forensic interviewing so I could be familiar with how an interview is done. Even though

it's one of the most difficult jobs to do, I do know when I go to bed at night that I helped to put someone in jail for what they've done.

### 3 What is one case that is more memorable than others?

Our very first that we worked through the Hamilton House. Because I had worked with the police department for so long, I knew what it was like to bring the kids to the police department for interviews. It's very difficult to interview kids without putting words in their mouths. They have to be able to do what they call disclose. Officers retrieved the little boy from his home and we went over there (Hamilton House) late at night. He kept saying things that didn't make any sense. [Recalls being inspired to give the boy a prop so he could use it to show what happened with a doll.] At that moment, I was so relieved. I don't know if it was God who opened my mind, but I knew then that because of my determination and passion for helping this kid, I was able to figure it out. It felt so right when I found out that the man responsible went to jail and that little boy has a chance at a better life.

### 4 Does it surprise you that you love law enforcement?

Yes, maybe because I come from Latin America and law enforcement isn't viewed the same way. I think my passion comes for law enforcement and teaching in that it's helping. Officers, yes, they're protecting us, but they're also role models for kids. As teachers, you're helping and you also serve as a role model. I also love the investigation part, not the patrol. I'm not going to chase anyone. Trying to figure out things and trying to help people, I find it challenging.

### 5 Has working as a translator impacted your views of police work or teaching in the classroom?

Our students who are getting a Bachelor of Arts, they're not going to teach so they're looking for jobs besides teaching and a lot of them get a minor in criminal justice, they get a minor in psychology, they get a minor in different areas. They find it fascinating by me just telling them what I do. ... It helps me to have contacts in the community because when they need people bilingual for jobs, I can recommend my students.



## Sense of Place



# HOMEcomings: Celebrating UAfS

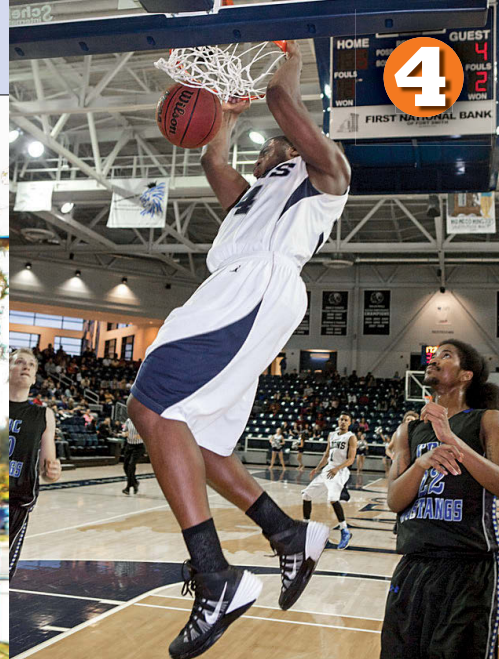
Several hundred alumni returned to UAfS, a place where many stories began and took unexpected plot twists that transformed the heroes and heroines. UAfS welcomed them all home during Homecoming 2013. In its 85-year history UAfS has impacted thousands of students who walked through its hallways chasing dreams and who walked out its doors well prepared to accomplish those dreams. In November, the Lion pride came home.

**1. Parade:** In keeping with the “Once Upon a Time Theme” for Homecoming, Kappa Sigma members prepare for their float based on Aladdin. More than 45 parade entries made their way along Kinkead before turning left onto Waldron, making a right on Alabama and circling around to the parking lot across from the Stubblefield Center.

**2. Tailgate:** After cheering on the parade, viewers and participants moved to the parking lot across from the Stubblefield Center for tailgating fun with barbecue, hamburgers

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
KAREN SCHWARTZ, KIRSTEN CUTSINGER





and hot dogs provided. There, Numa met with the members of his pride.

**3. Rocking out:** Sigma Nu members spun the music to get the crowd of students, alumni and their families up and dancing during the tailgate. People also lined up to scale the climbing wall, joust in a ring, slide down on the zipline or have their faces painted during the fun-filled day of family friendly events.

**4. Tip Off:** In the afternoon, the crowd moved from the parking lot to the Stubble-

field Center to cheer on the Lady Lions against the West Texas A&M University Lady Buffs and for the Lions as they took on the Central Baptist College Mustangs. Senior Bo Franklin dunked the ball on the way to UAFS's win 116-61. John Sturrock and Allie Wilson were crowned as Homecoming king and queen.

**5. Dinner Time:** Homecoming ended with the alumni dinner to welcome former students back to campus and to celebrate one of their own. Conaly Bedell received the

Diligence to Victory award given out by the UAFS Alumni Association in recognition of his work on behalf of the university. It also provided a chance for alumni to catch up with each other, such as (left to right) Kay Bui, Lap Bui '93, Shawn Cozzens '90, Wendy Mullens and Shane Mullens '03.

**6. Join In:** This year make plans to join in the Homecoming celebration on Oct. 31 through Nov. 1 and prove, like Jeremy May '07, that you're "Lion Blue Through and Through."





Daniel Maher sits on the brick remains at Belle Point in Fort Smith.

DANIEL WIGGINS

## ‘An Old Magic Trick’

### *Professor interprets Fort Smith’s history*

AS DANIEL MAHER listened to the stories told of Fort Smith’s beginnings, he began interpreting the words through his cultural anthropology training and found his doctoral dissertation.

“The frontier myths function as alibis,” said the UAFS assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, who arrived at the conclusion after four years of research. The myths show only partial history, obscuring other sides, silencing other stories.

Maher is now reshaping his doctoral dissertation into book form, which has received interest from publishers. Cultural anthropology, Maher’s field of study, involves observing how people interact with their culture, which is made of beliefs and practices.

“From an anthropological point of view, my question was ‘Why do we tell the story the way in which we do?’”

Maher chose to bear witness to how Fort Smith interacts with and tells its history. He observed and listened. He interviewed museum curators, tourists, historians and actors in re-enactments to see how people use frontier history in today’s culture.

“It’s an old magic trick,” Maher said of the repetition of myths. Those myths effectively “silence and conceal” Fort Smith’s role in the nation’s push west toward manifest destiny, imperialism and white male dominance.

Maher said the common story of the city’s beginnings is that a fort was built to keep peace between the different tribes in Indian Territory.

“It’s ‘look over here, don’t look over there,’” he said. “It’s not ‘keeping the peace;’ it’s ‘we’re taking it from them.’”

Military forts served as the vanguard for white presence, to make it safe for settlers to move in, for farmers to plant the land, for cities to rise. That’s what the fort along the Arkansas River at the edge of Indian Territory did. The city even has a memorial to the first white child born in Fort Smith to commemorate when the area became safe for white families.

Another myth focuses on Judge Isaac Parker, who became known as the “Hanging Judge.”

“In myths, what we have to do with all of

these people is to see them as superheroes or villains,” Maher said. “The fact is, they were human beings.”

Through a quirk in the law, from 1875 to 1890, Parker’s death sentences could only be appealed to the president of the United States, not to the Supreme Court. But that changed in 1890. From 1890 to 1896, 40 death sentences passed by Parker were appealed to the Supreme Court and 33 were overturned. That means 70 percent of the Hanging Judge’s death sentences were overturned when they could be reviewed, which is not exactly the image of justice, Maher pointed out.

Yet, because of the hangings that did occur and the death sentences handed down, the perceptions (some wrong) of Judge Parker continue. Maher said, as an example, that he attended a concert of a band that uses Parker’s name, and he noticed that one of the band members had a rebel flag displayed on his guitar and amp.

“Parker was a Yankee. He was opposed to the Confederacy and slavery,” Maher said.

However, people take the idea of Judge Parker, the myth of him, and use it to legitimize the nation’s presence on the border of Indian Territory, according to Maher. That is what an anthropologist studies, the stitching together of cultural meaning from one generation to the next.

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## Read On

Daniel Maher recommends three books to explore the frontier’s complexity.

While Fort Smith’s museums contain the facts of the lives lived, Maher said, “you have to put the pieces together.”

“A museum is an enticement, but we should never confuse a pass through a museum as knowing what happened there. Reading a book is qualitatively different. It’s deeper. It’s a vehicle that can relay that complexity.”

*The Native Ground* by Kathleen DuVal  
*Fort Smith: Little Gibraltar on the Arkansas* by Edwin Bearss and Arrell Gibson  
*Let No Guilty Man Escape* by Roger Tuller



## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY

### Amelia Baldwin, professor/cyclist

**T**welve years ago, Amelia Baldwin climbed on a bike and started pedaling.

"I used to ride five-and-a-half miles, and I thought that was so great," she said.

Then the man who is now her husband took her on a 10-mile ride. "I thought, 'I'm going to die,'" she said with a chuckle. "It was hilarious."

Despite her initial reaction, the UAFS accounting professor — already an avid swimmer — decided to add cycling to her exercise routine. And she set new goals. For her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, she rode 40 miles. Then in 2006, she embarked on a 100-mile ride on a flat rail trail in Florida.

"It was horrible because you have to sit and pedal the whole time," she said. A cyclist lifts herself off the saddle pedaling up hills to increase her power. On the descent, the rider lowers herself back in the saddle — and coasts. But Baldwin did it. She finished the flat century ride.

Since then Baldwin has competed in several cycling races — even winning the Arkansas State Time Trial for her category in 2012. "It's only because no one else in my category showed up," she said. "It's sort of a joke."

But while others stayed home on their couches, she showed up, she cycled. That, perhaps, is her secret. "I don't look like an athlete," Baldwin said. She points to her middle age and weight as considerations for others when they look at her. But she gets up and moves, and that body has carried her for many miles as she has competed in triathlons, runs up to half-marathon distances, long-distance swims and bike races, many of them while raising funds for cancer-related causes.

"Getting up and moving is healthy. You don't have to become the person who wins the Boston Marathon or even

qualifies for the Boston Marathon," she said.

"You can just be the person who walked a 5K last weekend."

She brings her passion and experience in athletics into the classroom, especially when students find accounting courses difficult.

"This is an endurance race. We're not doing a sprint here," she tells the students. "You've got to keep going at it daily. You've got to keep going at it the whole 16 weeks and then however many semesters to get through school."

Baldwin will be following her own advice as she trains for a four-mile, open-water swim this summer to raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to fight blood cancers. She lost her father to a form of lymphoma and her husband is currently a melanoma patient. She has raised more than \$20,000 for the LLS since 2009 and more than \$3,400 for the Melanoma Research Foundation in 2013.

**You don't have to become the person who wins the Boston Marathon or even qualifies for the Boston Marathon.**



Baldwin cycles on campus.

COREY KRASKO





COREY KRASKO

Boy Scout help pick up toys thrown to the court during the annual Toy Toss game.

## Tossing Toys

THIRTEEN SECONDS after tipoff, UAFS Lion Bo Franklin slammed the ball through the basket, causing the crowd to roar and throw more than 7,000 stuffed bears, tigers and even a snake onto the floor of the Stubblefield Center.

"I wanted to make sure and enjoy the moment," Men's Basketball Coach Josh Newman said about sitting and watching the blizzard of stuffed animals.

And he did for the fourth annual Toy Toss game, in which the more than 2,200 attendees threw the toys to the court after the

first Lions basket in the game.

"It was just a wonderful thing to see," said Amy Baker, '07, who brought her children to the game. "It was fun for everybody, not just the little ones."

While the action earns the Lions a technical for delaying the game, this year Ecclesia College's coach declined to shoot the free throws in what Newman called a "class act." The Lions went on to win the game 122-80.

The collected toys allowed the Salvation Army to pass them along to needy families for Christmas. In the four years of the program, the university has collected almost 20,000 toys for children in the River Valley.

"The community has just jumped on

board 100 percent," Newman said. "Everybody wants to be involved."

Fort Smith resident Tyler Bohanan heard about Toy Toss last year. "I wanted to be a part of it this year," he said, so he came to the game armed with a stuffed tiger to toss.

The Toy Toss genesis came during a brainstorming session by the UAFS 6<sup>th</sup> Man Club, which wanted to find ways to support the community. The program has grown from 1,500 toys collected in 2010 to more than 8,000 in 2012. This year eight elementary schools in Fort Smith competed against each other to see which one could collect the most toys; Euper Lane Elementary School took home the traveling Toy Toss trophy in 2013.

But the event also helps instill in student-athletes values of helping those who are less fortunate.

"I know our guys really look forward to spending time with the children and seeing the excitement this event brings to them," Newman said. "I know our guys will look back 10 or 20 years from now and understand that they made a difference."

The Toy Toss has attracted attention nationally, garnering the Lions the Community Engagement Award of Excellence from the NCAA in 2011-12. It has also led to other schools beginning their own Toy Toss tradition. The week after UAFS held its Toss, the team journeyed to San Antonio to play St. Mary's University for that school's inaugural Teddy Bear Toss game.

"Part of me wants to keep this special for us," Newman said. "Ultimately, there will be a lot of children made happy and that's what this is all about."



## Winning Ways

LOUIS WHORTON, '71, KNOWS WHAT IT takes to win and win again. In January, he earned his 600<sup>th</sup> career win when the UAFS Lady Lions defeated the Oklahoma Christian Lady Eagles at the Stubblefield Center. Whorton, who has spent his entire 28-year college coaching career at UAFS, has compiled an impressive win-loss record that includes a NJCAA Division I National Championship and one NJCAA National Runner-up finish. He also is a member of the NJCAA Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame.



## March Madness



TWENTY-PLUS WINS and a Heartland Conference regular-season championship proved enough for the selection committee to give the Lions the No. 6 seed in the South Central Region of the national tournament.

"I am thrilled for our guys and our program," UAFS coach Josh Newman said of the 21-6 team. "We started the year with the goal of playing in the NCAA tournament. We scheduled a very tough non-conference schedule with the hopes of achieving that goal. I'm glad it worked out."

It was the Lions' first appearance in the national tournament as a member of NCAA Division II.

"Everything we do is a mirror image of each other," Payton said, pointing out another way to distinguish her from her twin.

Payton is right handed and parts her hair on the left. Taylor is left handed, though she hits with her right hand in volleyball, and parts her hair on the right.

Maja has a K tattooed on her left wrist for her sister while Kaca has an M tattooed in the same place. They also have another difference.

"I'm the boss," Maja said with a laugh. Kaca agreed.

All four of the girls also agreed that their coach sometimes gets them confused.

"Probably the biggest challenge is calling out the right name in the heat of battle during a game," Sargent said. "Usually more times than not the twins get the credit or take the blame for something their sister did."

The two sets of twins also agree that while they were happy to win the Heartland conference regular season championship in 2013, they want to be Division II national champions in 2014.

"Next year," Kaca started saying, "It will be great," Maja finished.

**Group Photo front row: Taylor Hamilton and Maja Krstonosic; back row, Payton Hamilton and Kaca Krstonosic.**

# A Double Trouble

A QUICK GLANCE through the UAFS volleyball team photo and the eye realizes before it clicks in the mind that there are duplicates. That this blonde mirrors this one, and this dark headed player looks identical to that one.

But it's no trick of the light.

Two sets of twins play volleyball for the Lady Lions. Payton and Taylor Hamilton from Fort Smith, and Maja and Katarina "Kaca" Krstonosic from Kikinda, Serbia, joined the team in 2013, their freshman year.

"I think it makes our team unique; not many teams have two sets of identical twins in their freshman class," said Jane Sargent, head volleyball coach. "The team thinks it's pretty cool, and they take great pleasure in giving the girls a hard time about being a twin."

For Maja and Kaca, playing at UAFS allowed the twins the opportunity to get an education while continuing

to play volleyball and to remain together just a while longer.

"We realized we will separate when we get married," Kaca said.

But when they graduate, they plan to stay close to each other.

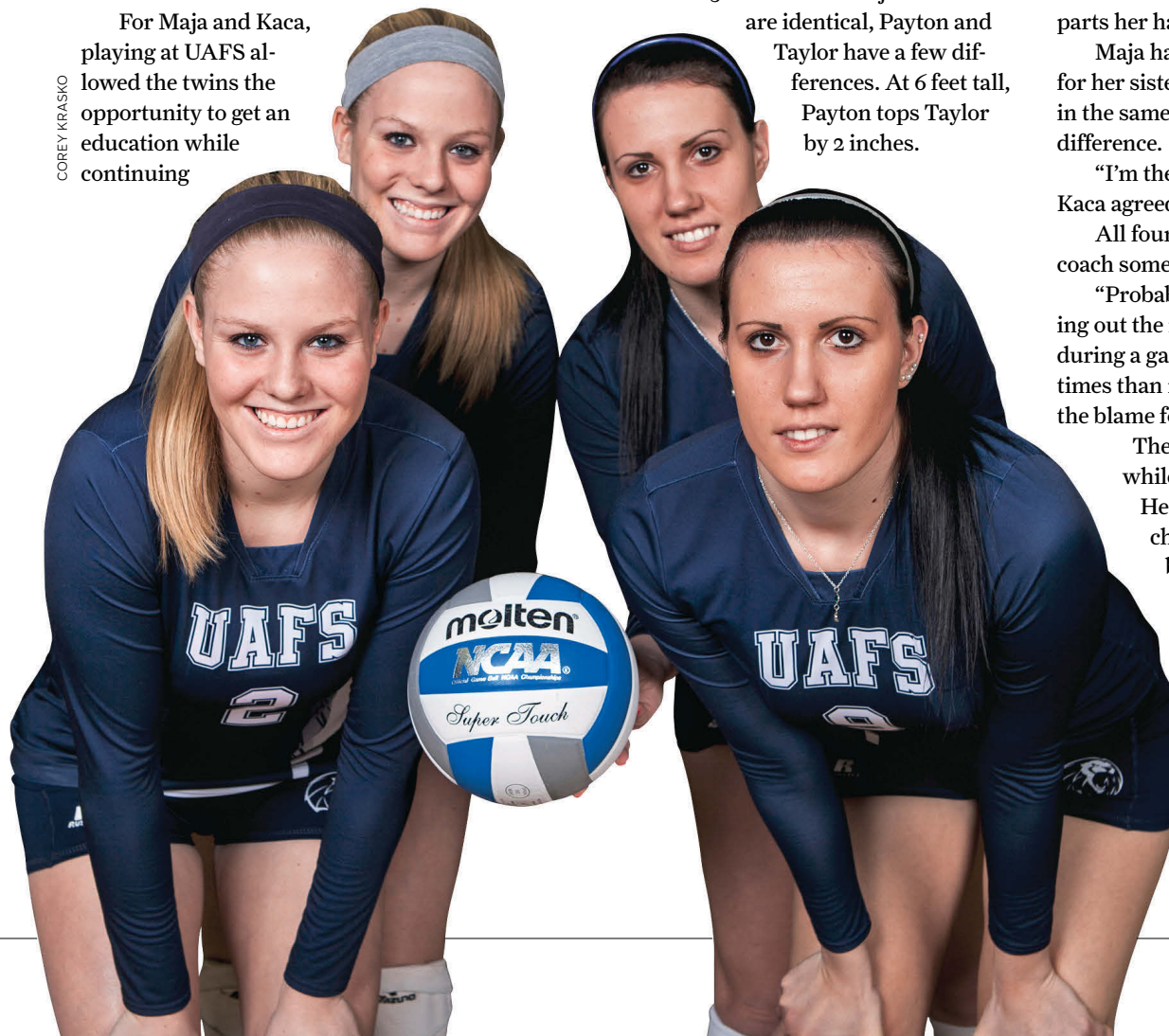
"It's so we can work together in the same company," Kaca said.

Maja, a setter, and Kaca, an outside hitter, room on campus with Payton, a middle blocker, and Taylor, a right side blocker. The Fort Smith natives and former Southside High School players long knew they wanted to play for the Lady Lions.

"We love the coach and the campus," Payton said.

"The scholarships were good," Taylor added.

While the 5-foot-11-inch Maja and Kaca are identical, Payton and Taylor have a few differences. At 6 feet tall, Payton tops Taylor by 2 inches.



COREY KRASKO







# SHE STOOD UP

In 1958, 15-year-old **Angie Evans** stood up against segregation — and the world responded

by **JENNIFER SICKING**

She raised her right hand for recognition, stood up, spoke up — and the nation took notice.

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court in deciding *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* declared the “separate but equal” rule, which divided white and black students into different schools, as unconstitutional. Southern states, perhaps Arkansas most famously, fought against the ruling. In September 1958, Gov. Orval Faubus blocked black students from entering Little Rock’s Central High School, even as the federal government said that they must be admitted and, ultimately, forced open the doors with military support.

As 1958 Little Rock smoldered, undone by the heat of the Central High School integration crisis, the flames spread 160 miles north to Van Buren, Ark., threatening to set that town ablaze as well. In Van Buren, the high school had been integrated without major incident the year before, but now coals of anger, distrust and fear grew into flames. Into that flickering light, Angie Evans Benham stepped and gained the attention of a nation.

The students at Van Buren High School elected Angie student body president at the end of her sophomore year. During the summer, she attended a student council workshop to learn ways to represent the students and discover their opinions. But the

workshop leaders never mentioned how to deal with integration, the one issue many schools and students faced.

“It was the elephant in the room,” Angie said.

That fall the elephant trumpeted in Van Buren and focused national attention for one month on the then-small town of 7,000 and school of 635.

As the then 15-year-old Angie’s junior year began on Sept. 2, 1958, 45 white students staged a strike at Van Buren High School protesting the enrollment of 13 black students and attempting to scare them away from returning. On the evening of Sept. 4 students burned a mannequin in effigy at the flagpole, although a Sept. 5 *New York Times* article noted, “The students seemed more bent on having a lark than creating a serious integration problem in burning the effigy.”



**Angie Evans Benham reflects on September 1958 when fires of segregation threatened to set Arkansas ablaze.**



But the black students stayed away from school the next day, and the next and the next, and for weeks after.

For the rest of the first week of school, students, joined by some townspeople and people from outside of Van Buren, picketed the school demanding

respect, even the upperclassmen.”

As the students protested outside of school, parents and community members formed the White Citizen’s Council to discuss how to aid them. They also planned to attend a school board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 9, to demand changes.

## “Someone had to speak up.” —Angie Evans Benham

its closure, for it not to be integrated. (A total of 78 students, 69 boys and nine girls, would eventually be expelled for striking, according to media reports. They could not be readmitted to the school until their parents enrolled them and promised that they would behave. “Obviously, the parents knew education was more important than segregation,” Angie said.)

“One or two of them were good students. The ones I had known since elementary school had never liked school, it didn’t matter who was there,” Angie said. “It was their way of not going to school and exercising authority.”

For the girl beginning her junior year of high school, it would be a month that proved a refining fire to test the steel strength of her convictions.

“She has the ability to rise to the occasion,” said her husband, David Benham, ’62, who also attended Van Buren High School as a junior that year.

“She’s of the character that kids gave her a lot of

On Sunday, Sept. 7, Angie sat in a pew at St. John’s Methodist Church with her family.

Two years earlier after the Supreme Court’s decision, she also sat beside family members, her soul absorbing the Rev. Robert Sessions’ sermon.

“We will not be fooled by rabble-rousers or political opportunists who for their own selfish purposes try to stir up discord among our people. We know that the alternative to law and order is lawlessness and disorder, and the opposites of peace and love are strife and hatred. As followers of the Prince of Peace, we will work for peaceful solutions,” Sessions said. “Every experience in life that tests our faith can be an occasion for witnessing to our convictions, and for examining our convictions in the light of the new experience. In the days ahead each of us will have the opportunity of bearing living testimony to the Christlike way.”

Two-and-a-half years later, with the town high simmering that September, Angie again sat on the pew next to her family and listened as the Rev.

William Wilder, the current pastor, spoke.

“Democracy is a rule of the majority, but it is the function of the majority to protect the rights of the minority,” he said to the congregation, according to the Sept. 8, 1958, issue of the Southwest American newspaper. “Moral problems are matters for the human conscience and not something to be decided by a poll of the people.”

But a poll of the students of Van Buren High School is just what Angie decided to use when a teacher told her of the board meeting. Angie and other student council members spent Sept. 9 polling students on whether black students should attend Van Buren High School. She invited students, including David, who supported integration, to attend the meeting with her, but had no intention of speaking.

David recalls informing his father of his plans to attend the meeting. “My dad was a true Southerner of the times with his prejudices. He said, yes, I could go, but there



Angie Evans Benham goes through





some of the mail, including positive and negative letters, she received from people around the world who responded to her stand.

could be trouble.”

Angie didn't tell her parents of the meeting.

Tension filled the auditorium, but the school board president managed to keep the meeting from becoming raucous, David said. He, Angie and the other students listened as the community members made their arguments.

One member of the citizen's council demanded the high school be segregated once more.

“We know the Negro students don't have a

decent school of their own here but can we get them back into Lincoln (Fort Smith Negro High School) and what are the chances of building a school here?” he asked, as reported by the *Southwest American* on Sept. 10, 1958.

As Angie listened she felt a rising pressure within her urging her to speak, to share the poll results. She raised her hand to the support of the White Citizen's Council, whose members didn't know what she planned to say, and stood up.



Dear "Angie",

As a southern school teacher (who taught too long for my physical welfare) I want to feel near enough to you as a high school student to call you simply "Angie". I am sure I would have that privilege if we were in the same school.

From the depths of my heart I offer my congratulations to you for the stand you have taken before your school, your State, your Country and your God in behalf of the down-trodden victims of circumstance that form a part of our American population. It is young people like you who give me hope that our Country will someday be a better place to live, and may yet become an example before the world... a Nation with Liberty and Justice for ALL. As it is today, too much of the conduct of our people makes a mockery of our profession to believe in these high ideals.

I wish the people of my beloved South could realize that their bigotries are attracting the attention of the whole world and there are plenty of foreigners who can see straight through us. We condemn Russia for her failure to keep treaties and wink at Governors of State who violate their oaths of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States and resort to arms in defiance of it. Our colored men die in battle on foreign soils to help preserve rights at home that the white man denies to them. I ask the guilty of such unfaithfulness, WHAT IS TREASON?

May God bless you and guide you on the road of righteousness.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Ethel M. Bush

Just to keep the record straight, I should like to add that I am of pure white blood, so far as I know, one-half Alabama and one-fourth each of Missouri and Tennessee. It all got together in Texas. But I am ashamed of those who put southern tradition above constitutional rights.

"The letters I received taught me that one act of kindness can have immeasurable repercussions, both good and bad, but mostly good. I really see it as an act of kindness rather than being a heroine."

"I knew they weren't going to like what I had to say," Angie said. She told them of the poll of 160 students with 45 opposed to integration, 30 undecided and 85 in favor. The mood of the White Citizen's Council began to shift. Then she told the board and council members that it's only fair that the black students be allowed to attend the school.

"Have you thought what you make those Negro children feel like, running them out of school?" she said.

Council members turned against the 15 year old, splattering her with hate-filled words. ("Nobody is ever proud of having hated," she said, declining to repeat their words. "Things have changed now. I think more people wish their parents had been more loving and more open and accepting than wish their parents had taken a harder line than they did.")

"When the meeting was over I felt it was over, that things would be OK," Angie said. "It was just the beginning of major bad feelings toward me and other students."

From One Southerner  
P.O. Box 41  
Saint Charles, Iowa

To Another:

Miss Jessie Angelina Evans  
High School Student Body President



Rothergerstrasse 7  
Basel, Switzerland  
September 23, 1958

Dear Angie,

We Americans here in Europe (and those in Asia even more so) are usually hardpressed by people here to defend or even explain so many of the things going on in our states these days. Every little incident of hatred and violence is played up in all the papers until it is almost impossible for strangers to understand. But occasionally someone like you enters a large deposit on the credit side of the ledger - and we here can point with pride that the Christian witness is still there.

I am a Methodist too, from Wisconsin, here in Basel studying theology. I am studying the ethics of Jesus, and you, there in Van Buren, are putting these ethics to work where it really requires courage. I know how difficult it is to speak out when most of the people cannot or will not apply Jesus' teaching to their own particular problem.

God bless you, your pastor, and I sincerely hope your stand will startle others into some serious thought. If you lose some friends at home (although in the long run you really won't) you have gained a thousand in perceived. Jesus said the first commandment is "to love the Lord your God with all . . . . and my neighbor as myself."

Yours sincerely,  
Gerald F. Moore

David said: "It was a watershed moment when she told what the student survey said. After that, the meeting was sort of over. I don't know why that particular moment was so important, but it seemed to be. The White Citizen's Council was in the majority there. I think they thought they had enough clout to close the schools and stop integration. But us students, we knew that it was not equal...It was time for Van Buren to take a stand and say we're going to integrate."

Angie walked home with her cousin along the railroad tracks after the meeting. She didn't tell her parents about speaking up in the meeting. Her father read about it in the next morning's newspaper.

"My parents never talked about it; they never expressed their fears to me," she said.

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Charles H. Roberts  
Chairman of Trustees  
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Pres. Senior Choir Board  
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Pres. in charge of Junior Choir  
Mrs. M. M. Dearing  
Pres. Missionary Circle  
Mrs. Carolyn Carter  
Pres. Flower Club

J.A. Evans  
Ident - Student Council  
Buren - Ark.  
Miss Evans

Thanks Gods for you, your Parents  
America. May The Lord Bless  
you and your Parents forever.

Respectful  
Rev. U.S. Brokenburr  
Nov. Ulysses S. Brokenburr



PHILLIP THOMAS

September 22, 1958

Sabbioneta (Mantova)  
ITALIA

To Miss Jessie Evans  
High School of VAN BUREN

I read in Time "Courage in Van Buren"! From a little town of the Po valley a grievd but sily cry comes to you, to the youngest american generation the oldest do not understand!

Your favor in anti segregation is a wonderfull 'gesto' that honour you and your country and I am admired that you are promoting that spirit af anti-segration. All nations in the world are seeing about your problems, and we, as admirers of american way of life, are deeply grievd for what is succeeding in your country. These are things that cannot honour the nation of all liberties and human progress!

Negroes are our brothers! Their souls are the as ours! They are deed as the Withes for their country and innumerable are the withe crosses covering, our war cemeteries, negroes soldiers!

We weep for America destination if her citi-s are not able to destroy this problem. We plaud if america has great, also young citizens, as you, because let us hope in a better future for our human and spiritual life!

Inform your friends, fight this holybattle for civility! If you replay I will very honoured to receive! I beg your perdon for my talk and I send the best italian salutations.-

Cordially

*Pino Tizzi*

Address:  
Pino Tizzi  
Sabbioneta (Mantova)  
ITALIA

1320 - 13th St, No.  
St Petersburg, Fla.  
Sept. 20, 1958.

Dear Miss Evans,  
Congratulations on your  
Christian and heroic stand  
as spoken of in Time. We  
who believe in Christianity,  
democracy and abiding by  
the law need to let it be  
known where we stand.  
Sincerely,  
Frank P. Anderson  
a Presby. Minister

P.S. I have a daughter  
"Angie" born in H Smith  
while I was pastor of  
the 1st Pres. Church there  
She is principal of a  
school in the Congo.

**"I knew if you did bad things, bad things would happen to you. I didn't know that if you did something good and right that bad things could happen."**

—Angie Evans Benham

It would be 13 more days before the black students returned to classes in Van Buren on Sept. 22, and even then only eight returned. Angie said she regrets not making friends with any black students after their return.

"I was ill at ease like I would be around any stranger. They were enough different from me and my experiences that I didn't feel like I had the skills to reach out to them. That was silly. Everybody's more like other people than they are

different," she said.

But in standing up Angie had captured the nation's attention simply by asking how segregation made others feel. On that September evening, individual strands of faith, family and personal experience wove together to create the image in newspapers and magazines across the nation of her standing with her right arm stretched heavenward.

"Someone had to speak up," Angie later told reporters and was quoted in *Time* magazine. "I just



don't think segregation is a Christian thing."

She grew up listening to her parents talk about Americans' rights and thinking of others.

Her father, often exhausted from working multiple jobs to provide for his family, was rarely animated. Yet praising the U.S. Constitution filled

and the good Lord, not by something they accomplished themselves to be proud of."

In another letter, the writer offered congratulations and wrote: "I'm sure you will hear from many people, some will agree with you and some will try to change your mind. The important thing is you

## **"We know that the alternative to law and order is lawlessness and disorder, and the opposites of peace and love are strife and hatred." —Rev. Robert Sessions**

him with energy. Those moments of passion etched in Angie's mind his words, "Everybody, no matter who they are, where they came from or what color they might be, has the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Similarly, her mother, made to feel less than others as a teenager dressed in homemade clothes after she moved from rural Rudy, Ark., to Van Buren, thought of others, often exclaiming, "Oh, I wonder how (someone) must be feeling. Don't you know he must be hurt, or sad, or upset by this," Angie wrote in a 2007 essay published in *Crisis of Conscience: Arkansas Methodists and the Civil Rights Struggle*.

Angie also noticed the differences between the schools she attended and the ones the black children did. She found them far from equal. Hers had indoor plumbing. The elementary school for black children still had outhouses. Older black students had to travel to Fort Smith to attend school.

So she stood up and spoke up.

And a darker thread entered the weave of her life.

"It was a lesson that removed my innocence," she said. "I knew if you did bad things, bad things would happen to you. I didn't know that if you did something good and right that bad things could happen."

She received letters asking her to change her opinion, letters telling her integration was a Communist plot, letters praising her and thanking her.

"I'm so full. I am so full," one woman wrote of her joy when she heard of Angie's stand.

Another wrote: "Congratulations to your good thinking and those that agree with you. Too many white people forget that they are white by accident

were and are willing to speak out. It is important to believe in something, but it is even more important to have the courage to speak your convictions, especially when they are unpopular."

"You have a lot of mail today," her parents said when she would come home – some of the only words she heard her parents speak about the stand she took.

She also received one postcard, then another, and another – all from Las Vegas and all with scrawled words from the same man.

"Those are death threats," her father told her. "Say no more."

Some people stopped shopping at her parents' neighborhood grocery store, although they received new customers too. A fraternal organization black-listed her brother. Aunts listened to hateful comments thrown at them during their organizations' meetings. Church members split their support. When the phone rang, sometimes the voice on the other end spewed hate and anger; sometimes it was a reporter wanting to interview Angie. At night, lying in bed, Angie listened to the low, worried murmurings of her parents.

"It was traumatic for me," Angie said recalling that time, including being interviewed. "I knew I was just a girl who really didn't know very much and that I could be easily embarrassed by what I would say that wouldn't be very wise or smart.... I knew I was young and inexperienced."

*Time* magazine called Angie the "pretty Ozark Joan of Arc," which caused Angie to laugh. *Made-moiselle* magazine named her one of its women of the year. The 1962 Fort Smith Junior College Numa yearbook staff placed her in the yearbook's Hall







**“She has the ability to rise to the occasion,” says husband David Benham.**

PHILLIP THOMAS

of Fame stating, “A young woman of impeccable integrity; an excellent student.” In 2013, Van Buren High School inducted her into its Hall of Honor. Despite the accolades and awards, she claimed she wasn’t a hero.

“That experience and the letters I received taught me that one act of kindness can have immeasurable repercussions, both good and bad, but mostly good,” she said. “I really see it as an act of kindness rather than being a heroine.”

In the 50-plus years since that fiery September Angie and David married in 1962, raised a family and worked as missionaries together in the Navajo Nation. David attended Westark for two years before transferring to the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville, from which he graduated in 1965. He also

earned a master’s degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctorate from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. After years of working with Baptist missions, David now serves as an Episcopal priest in Rogers, Ark. Angie earned degrees from Fort Smith Junior College, Agnes Scott College and Georgia Tech before working in clinical psychology, trying to help people believe they “are worthwhile beings and they are loved.”

At times in the passing years, she would pause to question her life and what it has meant.

“I look at that [the integration crises] and the letters I received and I’m reassured that at least I did that. I made some people feel better because of that stand. It’s reassurance that I’ve done one good thing,” she said. ■



# Healthy Choices

## Students invest real dollars with Hembree Fund

WHEN UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS – FORT SMITH alumna Emily Carter, '13, started looking for ideas about how to invest in the stock market, she looked no farther than a copy of *Men's Health* magazine.

An article about dieting suggested multi-grain foods weren't the best options for men who truly wanted to improve their diet and their fitness level. Proteins and fibers, the article claimed, are some of the most important foods to monitor when it comes to assessing a diet.

In Carter's mind that translated to farmers and producers of food having to work harder to produce healthy foods. It also meant that a lower supply of those foods would equate to a higher price for those healthy foods.

So Carter's critical analysis led her to invest in hog futures. Within the course of a semester, her analysis helped her net more than \$60,000.

"It was about strategy," Carter said.

"Paying attention to supply and demand ... invest well in the beginning, and if that doesn't work, go back and change your strategy."

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by **RACHEL WEDDING MCCLELLAND**





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One of the university's little known assets is giving students like Carter the real-world experience they need to prepare for a career in managing investment portfolios. For nearly 10 years, business students have had the opportunity to acquire hands-on experience by managing a \$100,000 investment account known as the Hembree Fund.

Lawson Hembree said his parents, H.L. and Janelle Hembree, both now deceased, felt strongly that students' learning about investments shouldn't be hampered by financial limitations.

"They felt it was important for students to have real-world experience investing rather than just having games that simulate the process," Hembree said. "If the students' ambition is to move into the investment world, the first time they make investment decisions won't have to be with a real client, but with this fund."

"This moves the classroom experience from theoretical to real-world, hands-on learning," he said.

Associate Professor of Finance Shanhon (Sharon) Wu oversees the fund and the students who make the decisions about how it is managed.

Getting that real-world experience means that students also feel the earthquakes that hit the financial world. The fund, which grew steadily between 2004 and 2008, lost nearly half of its value when the stock market plunged. For the last five years, due to students' investment strategies, the value has steadily increased and is currently estimated at nearly \$110,000, Wu said.

Wu works with students in the Finance 3723 Investments course to teach them the basics of security analysis and portfolio construction. Students spend the semester learning about investment planning, risk and return, securities and securities markets, and provisions and holdings. Consultants from Merrill Lynch and Ellwood Associates regularly make presentations to students to help them analyze stocks.



KEVIN LEDFORD

**"Paying attention to supply and demand ... invest well in the beginning and if that doesn't work, go back and change your strategy," says Emily Carter.**

Students, who are required to complete a business finance course as a prerequisite, begin the semester in the Investments course with a heavy dose of trading training, Wu said.

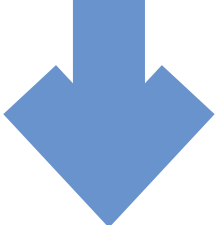
"They initially use simulated accounts, because I don't want them to jump into trading without training," she said.

"Ultimately, at the end of the semester, each student is required to give trading recommendations, and they will do a presentation in front of the class based on an initial investment of \$100,000," Wu said.

During those presentations, students must recommend investment plans for the coming year, including the price

(LEFT): MASTERFILE





**“If the students’ ambition is to move into the investment world, the first time they make investment decisions won’t have to be with a real client, but with this fund.”** —Lawson Hembree

at which they would make their purchases, how long they would hold onto their purchases and their plans for selling.

“I review all of these presentations, and if I believe they have done careful research, I will go ahead and execute their orders,” Wu said.

Carter, who graduated in December with a double major in accounting and business administration, said her experience in the Spring 2013 course proved invaluable.

“I hadn’t done anything like that before then,” she said. “But it helped me affirm that’s what I want to do ... It’s the way my mind works, I guess.”

Throughout the semester, Carter completed virtual stock trading using a phone application called Stock Tracker. She made the decision to pursue an aggressive portfolio investing half of her virtual \$100,000 in equities, 5 percent in cash options, 15 percent in bonds and a small portion in futures and options.

She broke down the semester into quarters, starting with an aggressive approach, as Wu suggested, then moving from moderate to conservative. By the end of the semester, Carter’s \$60,000 virtual profit was the most successful of the class.

Upon graduation, Carter accepted an accounting position with Southern Star, a regional service provider for Dish Network. While she studies to become a certified public accountant, she also juggles the responsibility of being a unit supply specialist with the Army National Guard. She plans to eventually pursue a master’s degree in investment finance.

“I learned a lot from Dr. Wu’s

course,” Carter said. “It helped me confirm that’s what I want to do with my life.”

While Hembree did not have the opportunity to observe Carter’s presentation, he routinely sits in on students’ end-of-semester presentations and is impressed with what he has seen and what the Hembree Fund has enabled students to accomplish.

“It sets us apart,” said College of Business Interim Dean Margaret Tanner. “The Hembree Fund is putting students in the position of an investment researcher.”

Doing so allows students to learn about investment management, buying and selling with a unique level of authenticity.

“There are other ways students can gain this experience,” Tanner said. “Through virtual investing, they can create portfolios with no money,

but we don’t have to do that. I believe that because students have the ability to affect real investment decisions, they are likely to take the experience more seriously. This fund has provided a great hands-on learning opportunity for our students.”

**Sharon Wu teaches students the basics of security analysis and portfolio construction as they research and construct their own portfolios.**





# Alumni+Friends

## New Beginnings, New Opportunities

WELCOME TO THE SEVENTH ISSUE OF *Bell Tower*, the alumni magazine of the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith! This issue coincides with new beginnings and new opportunities for me as your new director of Alumni Affairs.



I come to the position after graduating twice from our institution, from Westark Community College in 1974 and UAFS in 2007, and a 39-year career in the furniture industry. During my two terms on campus as both a traditional and non-traditional student, I developed a deep love and respect for our institution, the faculty and staff, and all that they mean to Fort Smith and the surrounding area.

As a fellow alumnus I share your lifelong relationship with this institution. Whether you claim Fort Smith Junior College, Westark Community College, Westark College, or the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith as your alma mater, we all claim Numa, our school mascot since 1929, as the tie that binds us together. And speaking of new beginnings, we invite you to stay in touch with us during the next few months as we have plans to incorporate Numa into a higher profile, and much deserved, role in the Alumni Association!

Currently, we are reviewing the programs and events offered in the past by the Alumni Association. Our successful and popular family events will be retained such as the annual Easter egg hunt on campus, Big Blue Splash, upcoming this June 27 (online registration open now at [www.uaafsalumni.com/BigBlueSplash](http://www.uaafsalumni.com/BigBlueSplash)), Lions Go Wild in the fall, and Doughnuts with Santa in December. As for new opportunities, we are developing ideas for new events both off and on campus and would love to have you share your ideas with us while we plan. We want to offer both social and educational events that will engage, entertain and provide new opportunities for you to network and grow in your career field.

Your alumni offices have moved to the northeast corner of Grand and Waldron. We invite you to visit us for a tour, a cup of coffee and to share any ideas you might have for an alumni event.

Come be a part of our "Pride"!



**RICK GOINS**  
Director of Alumni Affairs

## DROP US A LINE!

Let us—and the people you went to school with—know what you've been up to! Please take a few minutes to sit down and tell us what's been going on since your time at UAFS, Westark, or FSJC. Tell us about your job, your family, your hobbies, your adventures, your plans—whatever you want to share with other alumni. We love to get photos too, and we'll happily run them in this section.

Be sure to include your name (and your name while you were in school if it has changed since then) and the year you graduated or the years you attended. Email your class note to [alumni@uaafs.edu](mailto:alumni@uaafs.edu) or mail it to **Alumni Office, UAFS, P.O. Box 3649, Fort Smith, AR 72913.**

### 1960s

**Jim Spears, '66**, judge of the 12th Judicial Circuit in Arkansas, attended the U.S. Marshals Museum dedication in Fort Smith.

### 1970s

**Larry Byrd, '78**, was recognized for his 30 years of work at Acme Brick Tile and Stone.

**Rick Goins, '74 and '07**, began serving as the UAFS director of Alumni Affairs on Jan. 6, 2014, after a 39-year career with Goins Statewide Furniture.

**Louis Whorton, '71**, earned his 600th career win with the UAFS Lady Lions defeating Oklahoma Christian Lady Eagles Jan. 2, 2014, at the Stubblefield Center. Whorton, who has spent his entire 28-year college coaching career at UAFS, has compiled an impressive win-loss record that includes a NJCAA Division I National Championship and one NJCAA National Runner-up finish.



**Carol (Schaper) Wilson, '74**, While attending Westark Community College, Carol entered the

Miss Ft. Smith competition in 1973 and proudly became Miss Ft.

Smith 1973. She retired in 2008 after 33 years of service as a flight attendant with American Airlines, traveling the world and broadening her perspective. She now lives in a county seat city with historic ties to the Civil War and is employed with the city of Newnan, Ga., as an assistant to the director of the Newnan Carnegie Library, generating education and enrichment programs for patrons of all ages. She is married to Charles E. Wilson, an Air Force veteran who is employed in the banking industry. Her family includes two step-daughters, two sons-in-law and seven family dogs. "I am so very pleased to see the progress and development that has been made over the years- from Westark Community College to U of A-Ft. Smith; what a wonderful legacy of those who have worked tirelessly to bring this about," she said.

**Charles Young, '70**, has fond memories of the year that he attended Westark prior to transferring to Fayetteville. Singing in Mr. Green's choir was the highlight of his brief stint here. He worked his way through college as a DJ at radio stations in Van Buren, Fayetteville and Springdale. He met his wife at UA-Fayetteville. They have two daughters and a granddaughter, who is graduating high school this year. Since 1975, he has been working as a technician at KATV



channel 7 in Little Rock, Ark.

## 1980s

**Rennetta (Ealy) Carter, '87**, was promoted to market human resource manager for Walmart Stores, Inc., in January 2014.

**John DuCharme, '84**, lives and works in St. Louis, where he is division VP, client services at Maritz Motivation. After completing his course work at Westark, John continued his undergraduate classes at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where he received his BBA degree in marketing and information systems in 1986. John earned his MBA in Marketing from Washington University in St. Louis in 1990. John is married, has two children and is actively involved in tennis and volunteer activities at St. Catherine Laboure Church.

**George Lawson, '85**, became police chief in Muldrow, Okla., after 36 years with the Fort

Smith Police Department.

**Arlene Wilson, '88**, exhibited exhibit "Mono Ki: The Kimono as Language" at UAFS. She attended the Rhode Island School of Design and has worked in a variety of artistic mediums during her 20-plus years as an artist. Her exhibit at UAFS will feature her work with fine art textiles.

## 1990s

**Justin Boyd, '95**, a Fort Smith pharmacist and businessman ran for the Arkansas House for District 77.

## 2000s

**Leah English, '09**, interned at Disney and is now studying at Ghent University in Belgium.

**Craig Gentry, '04**, former UAFS center fielder and Lions Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, was traded from the Texas Rangers to

the Oakland A's on Dec. 3. Gentry, who played two seasons for UAFS when it was a member of NJCAA, finished his collegiate playing career at the University of Arkansas. Gentry was the 298th pick in the 2006 MLB Draft.

**Cambrielle Johnson, '08**, graduated with her master's in college student personnel from Arkansas Tech University in December.

**Jeremy May, '07**, and his wife Sarah will be welcoming a little boy to their family. He is expected to be here on May 27. In addition to that exciting news, he recently joined the Alumni Advisory Council and was honored to be part of the Fall 2013 Commencement Ceremony where he proudly congratulated the graduates on their accomplishment and officially welcomed them to the UAFS Alumni family.

**Brandon McFadden, '07**, earned his master's in agricultural

economics from the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville in 2009. He defended his doctoral dissertation at Oklahoma State University in February 2014 and began working as an assistant professor at the University of Florida in April 2014.

**Steven Minks, '10**, is finishing his last round of exams at Mississippi College School of Law. For his remaining six hours of academic credit, he has accepted an internship with the Pulaski County Public Defender's Office where he will be admitted to the limited practice of law representing indigent criminal defendants.

**Brockette White Minnick, '08**, and her husband **Mitch Minnick, '08**, met at UAFS in 2004, married in 2007, and graduated from UAFS with Bachelor of Science degrees in marketing. They have Luci who is 4 and Emmi who was born this past August. Mitch recently graduated in Decem-

## Welcome to UAFS

**Mary Lackie** has taken the reins as the UAFS vice chancellor for university advancement. **Rick Goins** now leads the alumni team as director of the UAFS Alumni Association. **Jennifer Sicking** serves as the new editor of *Bell Tower* magazine.

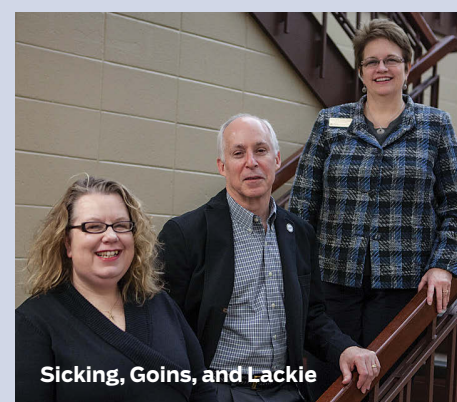
Lackie previously worked as the associate vice chancellor for development. Prior to coming to UAFS, Lackie served as the senior technical director for policy and planning for the International Affairs Office at Teachers College Columbia University, where she managed the \$40 million U.S. Agency for International Development project to improve pre-service teacher education in Pakistan. She has also worked in Poland, United Arab Emirates, Armenia and Germany as well as at institutions in

Arkansas and Louisiana.

"In all of the places I have worked, I have never seen such a strong relationship between a university and the community," she said. "Working together, we can be successful in continuing to grow opportunities for students in our region."

Goins unites the past and present with his two degrees. He received an associate's degree in business in 1974 from Westark Community College and then a bachelor's degree in history from UAFS in 2007. He ran his family's furniture business in downtown Fort Smith for 39 years before deciding to work in support of his alma mater.

Sicking came to UAFS from Indiana State University where she was associate director of media relations and magazine



Sicking, Goins, and Lackie

COREY KRASKO

editor. She has won numerous awards for her writing and looks forward to using her skills and knowledge to tell the story of UAFS. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from West Texas A&M University and a master's degree in English – creative writing from Indiana State University.





ber from the University of Central Arkansas with his Master of Science degree in community and economic development. Brockette has been working since July of 2008 in financial aid as the scholar-

ship coordinator at UAFS. Mitch is employed as the development officer for the Fort Smith Housing Authority and Strategic Community Investments.

**Lea Porter, '06**, a teacher at West Fork (Ark.) Elementary School, was selected from a pool of more than 500 applicants to participate in the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary



Sources Summer Teacher Institute for one week in July 2013. During the five-day program, participants worked with library education specialists and subject-matter experts to learn effective practices

for using primary sources in the classroom, while exploring some of the millions of digitized historical artifacts and documents available on the library's website.

## 2010s

**Michele Marsh Alley, '12**, was hired to work as a carrier coordinator for ABF Multimodal after

## LION FILE

### Diving Deep

For alumnus **Michael Berumen**, scuba diving amid the coral reefs of the Red Sea is a perfectly normal part of his work as a marine biologist – an academic job he might never have imagined had he not snorkeled abroad for fun and credit.

And the year he spent studying abroad, which plunged him into Australia's Great Barrier Reef and led to a challenge he couldn't resist, might never have happened were it not for his time at University of Arkansas – Fort Smith.

"This is where it all started," said Berumen. As a Fort Smith Southside High School student in 1997-98, he took concurrent biology courses at Westark College, where he played with a scanning electron microscope – and discovered the hands-on science that would one day shape his future in a far-off land.

"It was very much here that I developed an appreciation for academics outside the classroom," Berumen recalled. "I became fascinated by people who were learning things that weren't in the textbooks."

Today Berumen heads the reef ecology lab at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia, an international graduate research institution built on the eastern shore of the Red Sea.

During a trip to the United States to gather ideas for a natural history museum on the KAUST campus, Berumen gave a talk at UAFS about research and career opportunities beyond Fort Smith.

"KAUST is a very attractive place for students. We pay master's students. And if you're in marine science, there's a huge opportunity for novel work," Berumen said, admitting he's "always on the hunt" for research fellows.

"I really enjoy talking with students who don't see marine biology as a career option. It's a perfectly normal job. People do this," he said.

It's a point worth making: Even after his experience as a budding scientist at UAFS, Berumen signed up for a pre-med track at University of Arkansas - Fayetteville, on the assumption he would follow in his father's footsteps and become a physician.

As he pursued a zoology major and snorkeled recreationally every chance he got, a career in marine science never occurred to him. But during a yearlong study abroad course at James Cook University on the northeastern shore of Australia – where he admits he spent more

time in the water than in the lab or classroom – one day everything changed.

It was the day his research professor referred to him, somewhat dismissively, as "pre-med" while talking to a roomful of marine scientists.

"I took that as a challenge. Was he saying I couldn't do this?" Berumen looked at the academics around him and realized marine science was just as real a career option as medicine, even for a guy from Fort Smith, and that he could make a life's work of the pursuits he most enjoyed.

"That's when all my pre-med plans derailed," he said. Berumen completed his bachelor's in zoology in 2001, but instead of going on to medical school he returned to James Cook. There he earned his doctorate in marine biology, teaching in Hawaii and the United Kingdom along the way.

In 2007, just as he began his postdoctoral work at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Cape Cod, Mass., KAUST came calling. With a campus yet to be built but a vision firmly in place, the university had begun to recruit research partners from around the world, and Woods Hole became a partner.

"I learned how to work without infrastructure," Berumen said. For him, that meant lining up diving companies and equipment so he could get into the water and begin a research project. The Red Sea proved to be a scientist's mother lode, with 1,800 kilometers of coastline and little to no published research.

"Everything was novel, and the rest of the coral-reef science community was eager to know about the Red Sea," he says. In 2013 he published a paper documenting what he believes is the first project to measure the effects of a coral bleaching event, a phenomenon tied to global climate change.

In 2009, he joined the faculty as an assistant professor and gained daily access to great reefs and world-class laboratory facilities.

"I've been to a lot of places where you can get one of the two, but it's extremely rare to get both. KAUST has both," Berumen said.

Today, Berumen recommends that students seize upon study abroad courses and any other opportunity to see the world while in college: "You never know where it might lead you." —*Wanda Freeman*





graduation. In 2012, her boyfriend of four years proposed, and they were married on September 21, 2013, in Fort

Smith. She was recently promoted to ABF multimodal specialist, where she trains new employees. "I am absolutely loving working for such a fantastic company with such wonderful people. I encourage any recent graduate to consider working for this respectable company," she wrote.

**Ashley Baldwin, '13**, began working at Hartford High School before her graduation as its physics, chemistry, physical science and environmental science teacher for grades nine, 11, and 12 and she loves it. "I love that I now have a career in exactly what I envisioned doing when I 'grew up,'" she said.

**Jami Coplin, '10**, was hired as a financial aid advisor at UAFA in December 2013. She is very excited to be back on campus and working for the university!



**Becky English, '13**, and her husband, Jamie, welcomed their baby boy Sebastian Cole English to their

family on Aug. 28, 2013.

**Leslie Aday Hassell, '12**, is completing a masters of art in Southern studies at the University of Mississippi. Her work and research includes documentary photography, oral history and media analysis. She married Matthew Hassell in 2007 and currently works as an editorial assistant for *Living Blues* magazine in Oxford, Miss.



Lauren Rodriguez shows an exoskeleton from one of her more than 80 tarantulas that are helping her to face her fears.

## Taking Away the Power

She simply got tired of being afraid.

In desperation, **Lauren Rodriguez, '06**, asked her husband, a counselor, to recommend a therapist. After numerous sessions, Rodriguez had one final assignment: She must interact with this thing that frightened her.

As a child, Rodriguez suffered several bites by tarantulas and developed arachnophobia. "I got embarrassed by my reaction any time anything eight-legged and hairy went running by," she said. Working with her therapist, slowly she began to be desensitized to them, but as a final step she had to do more than stare at pictures of them. After a fruitless search around Austin, Texas, where she lived, she embarked on a new hobby — one that she still fears. She welcomed tarantulas into her home.

"Some are super fast and bitey. Some are like a rock that eats," she said.

After starting with babies of the so-called pet rock species, she realized how dependent upon her they were. "They became very vulnerable and real," she said.

She studied and learned more about them, how they move through their worlds nearly blind and smelling through the hairs on their legs.

"The way they interact with their world is survival and reproduction," she said. "That took away their power over me."

Her collection grew from two to five to 20 and now numbers 86. She keeps data on each one: genus and species, environment, food, temperature

requirements. She sees it as homage to Ragupathy Kannan, UAFA professor of biological sciences.

"He worked very hard to recruit me into biology," she said. At the time, she thought of herself as stronger in musical ability than in science. "Now, I realized I was afraid what it might require of me," she said. "So this is my thank you."

As part of her continued learning and therapy, Rodriguez records videos on tarantula biology and maintenance. She posts them to YouTube under the Morgonious channel.

"I use it as a reference to go back and objectively refer to my interaction, to see if there is anything I can go back and change," she said.

But, she's learned much more than that tarantulas are fastidiously clean creatures or that they will reorganize their environments to make it how they like it. Through her position at the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Rodriguez has incorporated lessons learned from working with the spiders.

"Tarantulas have consistent behaviors, special needs, and have to be taken just as they are," she said. "When someone comes to our agency, it helps me to remember that the people I work with are people before their disability, to interact with them on their terms and to grant them respect."

And she's still working against the fear that now lives with her.

"I acknowledge it, but I'm in charge of my feelings," she said.

SCOTT STANFIELD



## IN MEMORIAM



John Bell, Jr., '62, who painted his hometown of Fort Smith, introduces "Concert on the Green," an iconic painting of the UAFS campus.

**John Bell, Jr., '62**, filled his paintings with light, darkness and life as he recreated scenes from living in his hometown of Fort Smith, including "Concert on the Green," which shows students enjoying a concert in front of Reynolds Bell Tower at UAFS.

"From the first day that I put a shirt and pants on my drawings of stick figures, I was hooked on the arts," he said.

Bell attended UAFS when it was known as Fort Smith Junior College from 1959 to 1962 before earning a bachelor's degree in art from the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville. He worked as a designer, illustrator and instructor for many years before concentrating on his art, mostly oil paintings of historical cityscapes. His work has been shown in the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and hangs in private collections across the United States. Four of Bell's paintings are featured in the Boreham Gallery at UAFS.

He also served on a special committee for the National Endowment for the Arts, in which he helped plan a visual arts event, which included his works, in Washington D.C. as part of President Jimmy Carter's inauguration.

Bell died on Nov. 8, 2013, at the age of 76.

## FAREWELL!

After 17 years, successfully completing a \$50 million capital campaign and building countless relationships, **Marta Loyd** resigned as vice chancellor for university advancement from the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith to become the executive director of the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute.



During her time at UAFS, Loyd spent 12 years as vice chancellor. In 2012, she led the foundation to the triumphant completion of a capital campaign that surpassed its goal by raising \$57 million. In a 10-year span, she led the transformation of the Westark Community College Foundation, with \$20 million in assets, into a comprehensive university foundation with an endowment of more than \$60 million and assets of more than \$79 million. Through the years, the foundation has awarded more than \$11 million in scholarships to students and given out about \$11 million to the university for equipment, technology, facilities and faculty support.

Perhaps more importantly, she served as a friend and mentor to many at UAFS and in the Fort Smith community. She worked tirelessly to connect the university and the community, championing both.

UAFS Chancellor Paul Beran said that Loyd would be missed.

"I'm very sad to see Dr. Loyd go, but I'm also excited for her and the opportunity she's pursuing," he said. "Dr. Loyd will be excellent as the executive director for the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute and will provide a kind of insight and intellectual depth that will make the institute a world-class operation."





“

Beneath our thickest shades we oft have heard  
Thy voice, when noon upon his fervid car  
Rode o'er the deep of heaven: beside our springs  
Sit down, and in our mossy valleys, on  
Some bank beside a river clear, throw thy  
Silk draperies off, and rush into the stream:  
Our valleys love the Summer in his pride.

COREY KRASKO

*“To Summer” — William Blake*

”



## Bell Tower

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## A Look Back

Regardless of the year, students never seem to have a problem mixing fun in with their studies. In this human pyramid formed in the Fullerton Union showcased in the 1977 *Numa* yearbook, Sam Harris takes the top while Lisa Turner and Donna Buccella hold the middle, and John Gary, Mike Barker and Larry Plemmons provide base support as Phillip Hobbs observes.

Do you have any photos or memories of your favorite spots on campus that may no longer be recognizable today? We'd love to share them in an upcoming issue. We'd also appreciate your thoughts about the magazine, responses to stories and ideas for future articles. Drop us a line at [alumni@uafs.edu](mailto:alumni@uafs.edu) or **Bell Tower Magazine, P.O. Box 3649, Fort Smith, AR 72913.**